(e) whether average foodgrains yield in Haryana is more than the national average yield rate;

(f) if so, the details thereof and whether the farmers of this State are more prosperous than the average farmers of the country; and

(g) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As per the National Sample Survey Organisation Report No. 498 on Indebtedness of Farmers Households, 53.1 per cent of the farmer households were reported to be indebted in Haryana whereas 48.6 per cent of households were reported to be indebted at All India Level.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) Details regarding yield of total foodgrains in Haryana at All India level during last three years are give below:

Foodgrains Yield (Kg/Hectare)

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Haryana	3068	3092	3045
All India	1727	1652	1716

Cattle population

435. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cattle in the country according to recent surveys;

(b) the number of such cattle affected by "Hoof and Mouth" disease and other serious debilitating problems;

(c) the steps Government are taking up to ensure a healthier cattle population;

(d) whether it is a fact that there has been a neglect of improving and protecting cattle in the last four years; and

(e) the steps proposed to give more focus to protection of cattle as a major income for farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) As per the results of latest Livestock Censum, during the year 2003 there were 185 million cattle in the country.

(b) During the year 2003, 1956 cattle were affected by the "Foot and Mouth Disease".

(c) The Union Government is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments to ensure efficient health coverage of the cattle population through Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely, Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD), National Project on Rinderpest Eradication (NPRE) and Food and Mouth Disease Control Programme.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The Government has started a new scheme Livestock Insurance on pilot basis in 100 selected districts across all the States except Goa during 2005-06 for a period of two years with the objective of protecting farmers from unexpected losses and popularizing rearing of improved breeds of cattle and buffalo.

Subsidy to the farmers

436. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers are not getting price of their production of grains and fruits in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh *vis-a-vis* the increase in price of fertilizers, seeds and plans for agricultural and horticulture production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government considers tc grant some more subsidy to farmers in this behalf; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government's Price Policy for